

# Public Opinion in Azerbaijan

## Findings from a 2006 National Survey of the Azerbaijani Electorate

Survey Implemented by

**IFES**

With Funding Provided by

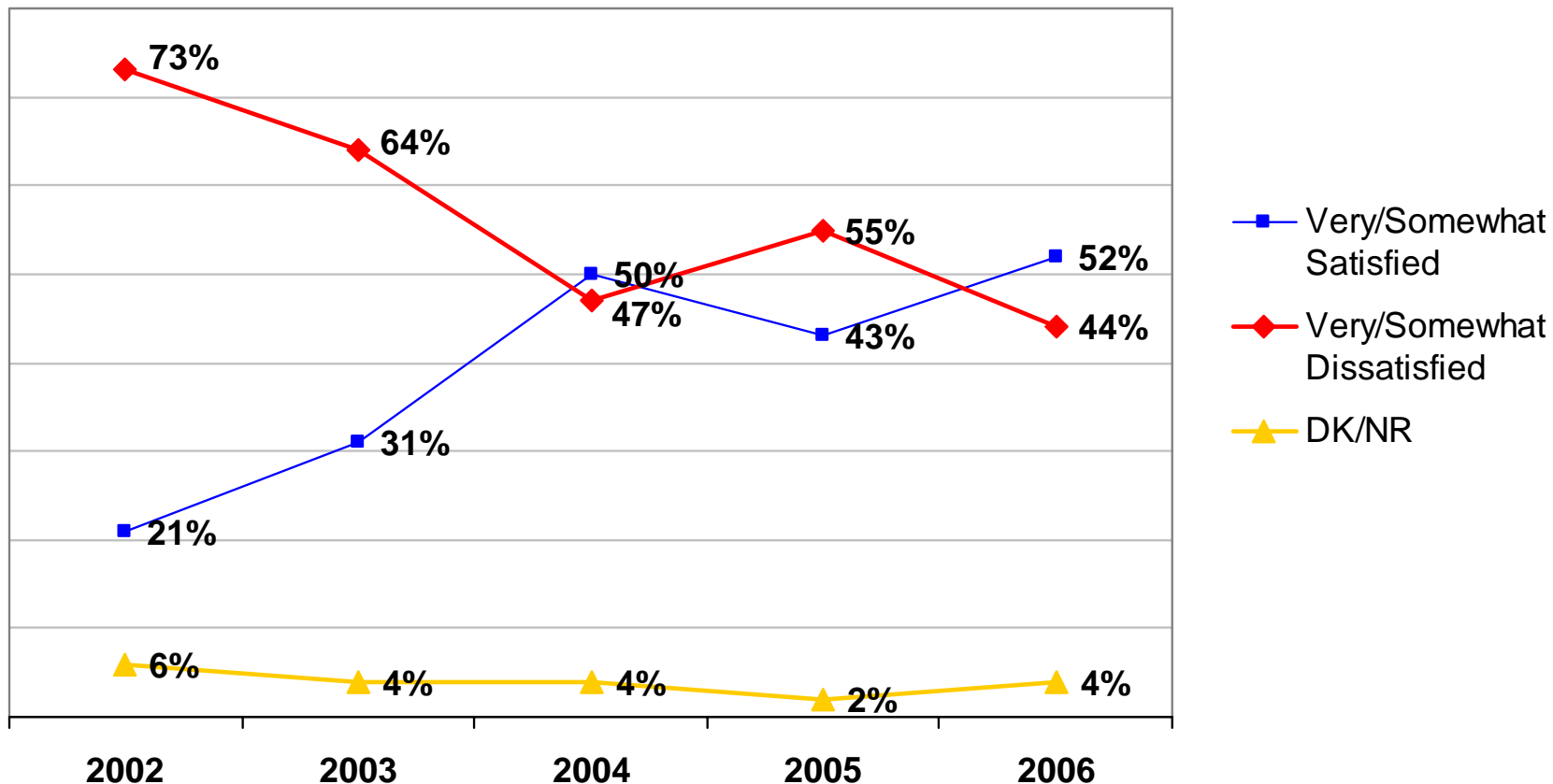
**The United States Agency for  
International Development (USAID)**



# Survey Details

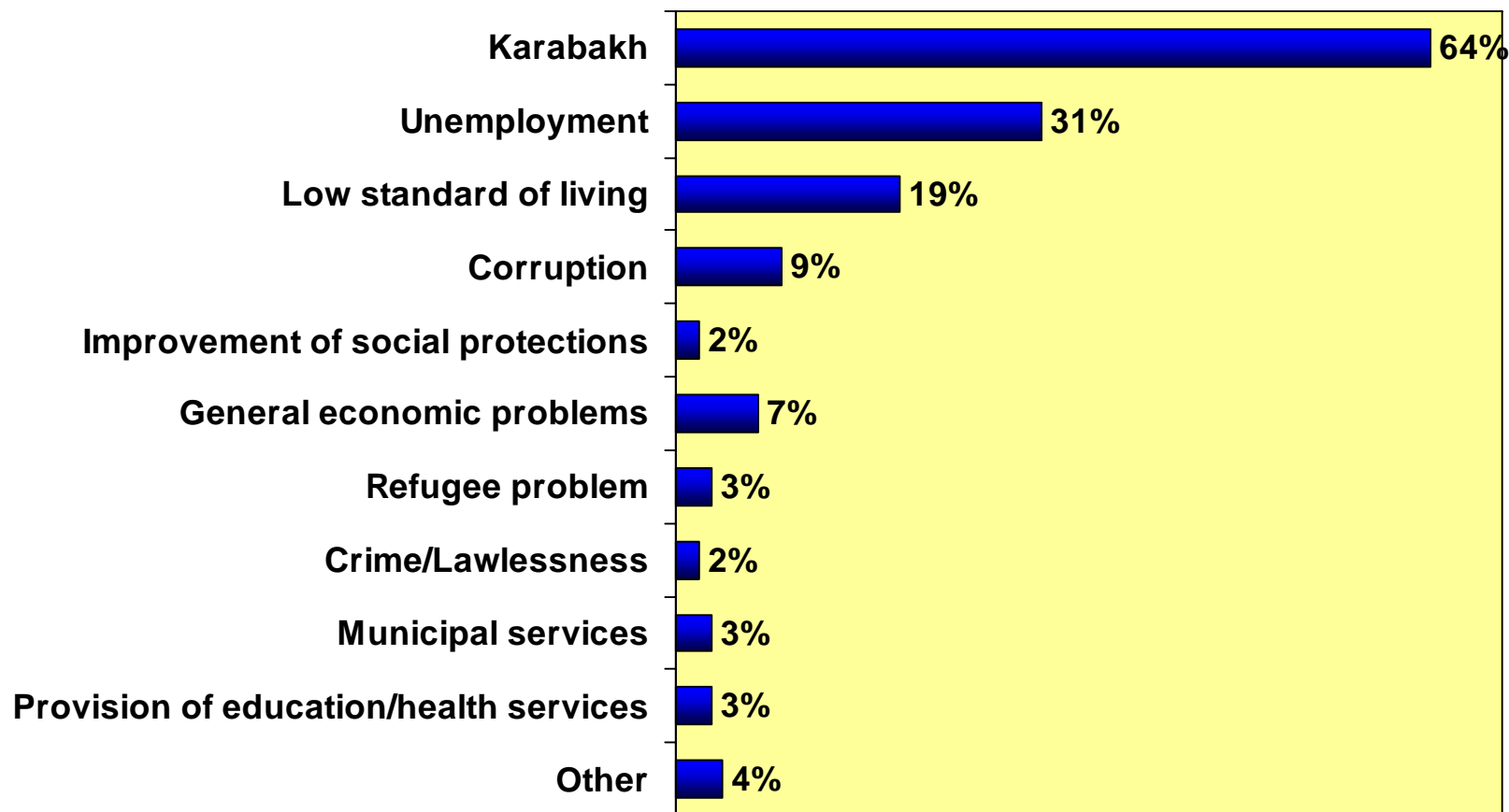
- Dates of Fieldwork: Nov. 17 – Dec. 20, 2006
- Sample Size: 1,600
  - Consists of a base national sample of 1,400 and an oversample of 200 respondents in select areas of the country
  - Data presented here reflects national distribution of population
  - Margin of error for national sample:  $\pm 2.75\%$
- Urban/Rural Distribution: Urban (51%), Rural (49%)
- Gender Breakdown: Women (53%), Men (47%)

# Satisfaction with Overall Situation in Azerbaijan



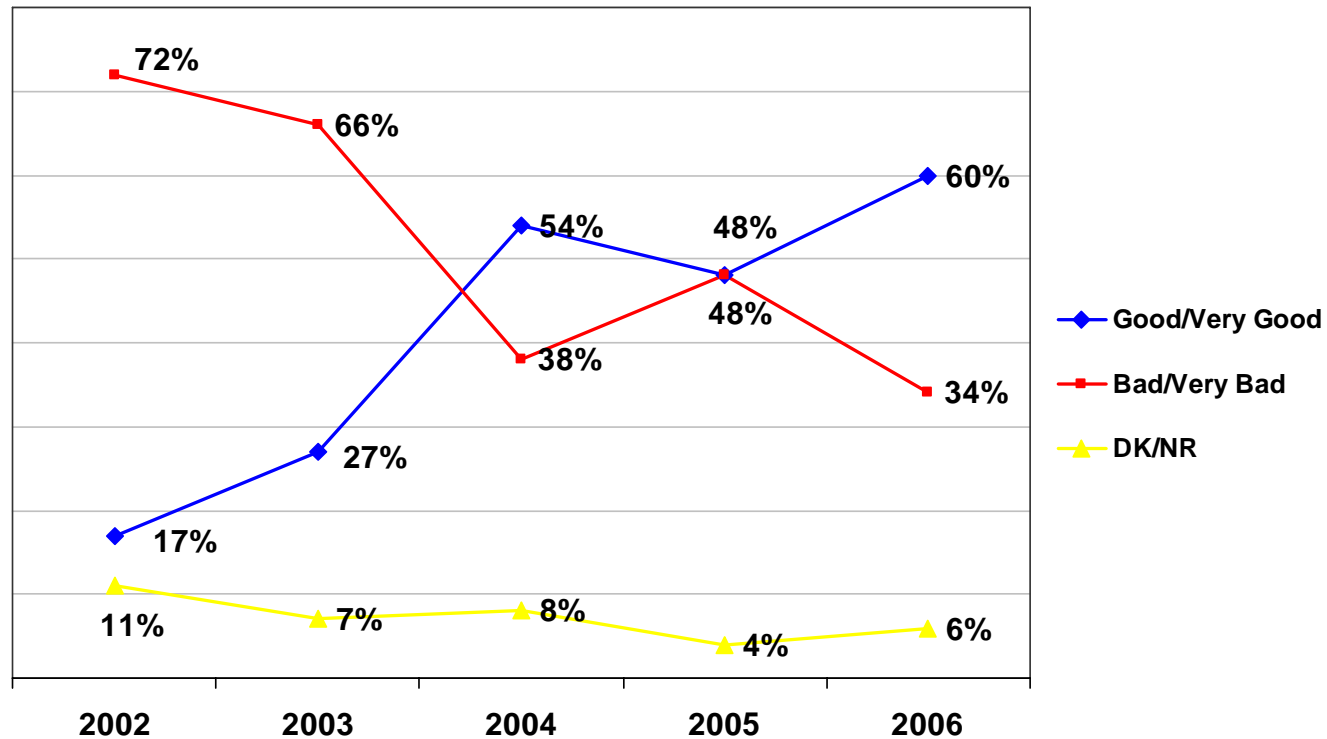
*"How satisfied are you with the overall situation in Azerbaijan?"*

# Biggest Problems Faced by Azerbaijan



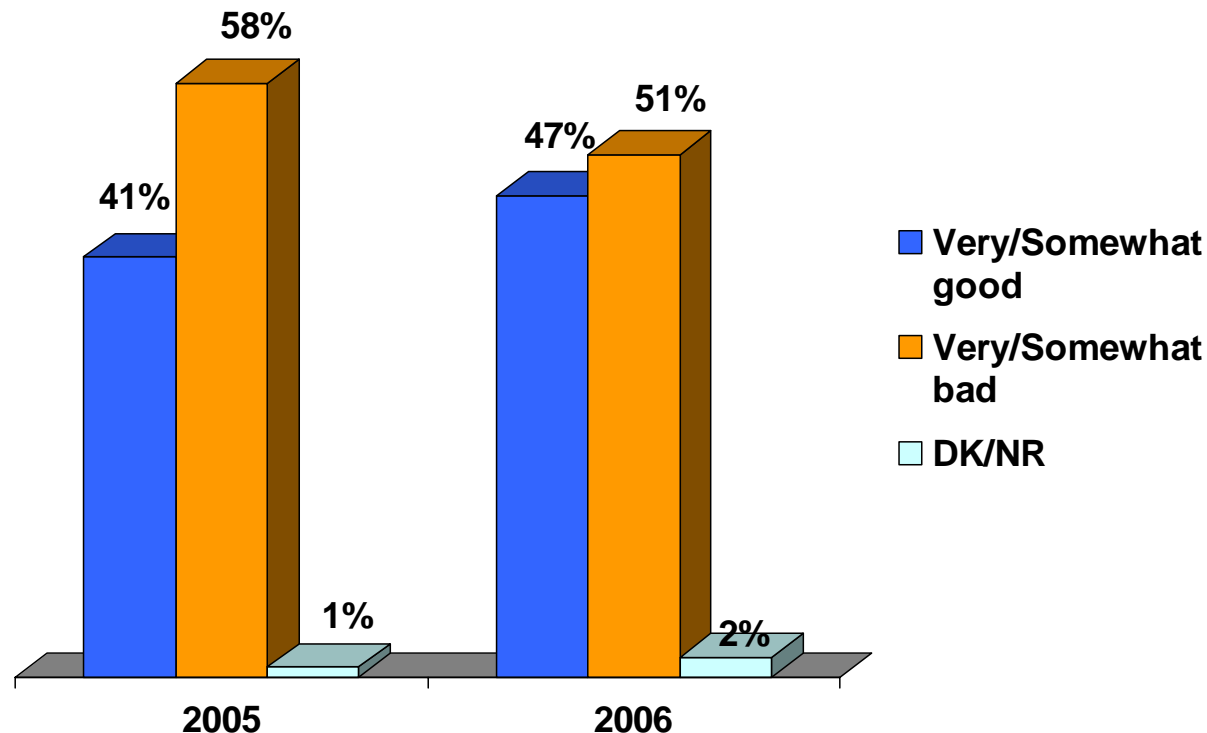
*"In your opinion, what are the biggest problems Azerbaijan faces as a country – that is, the problems which are of most concern to you?"*

# Perceptions of Current Economic Situation



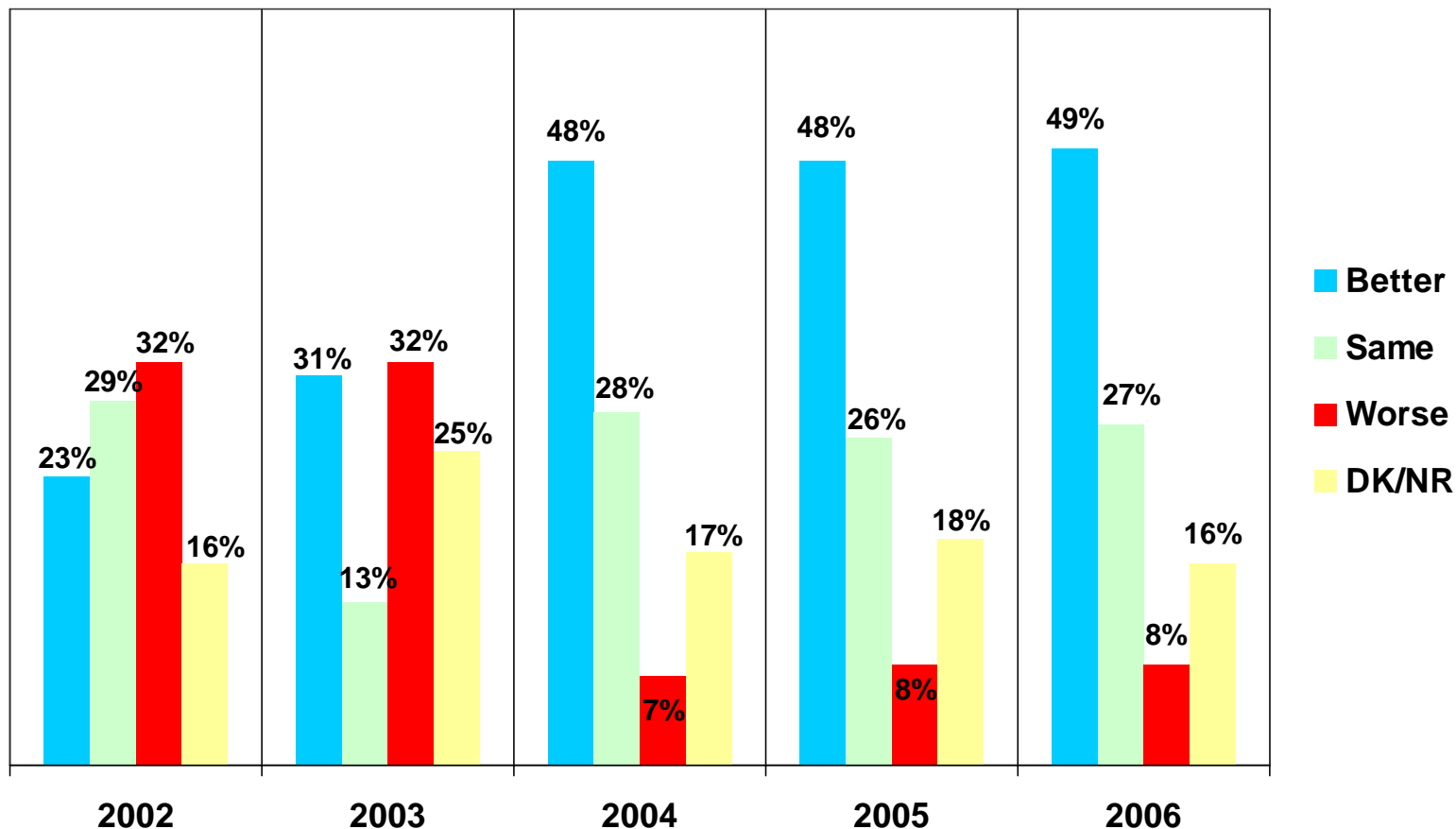
*“How would you describe the current economic situation in Azerbaijan?”*

# Family's Current Economic Situation



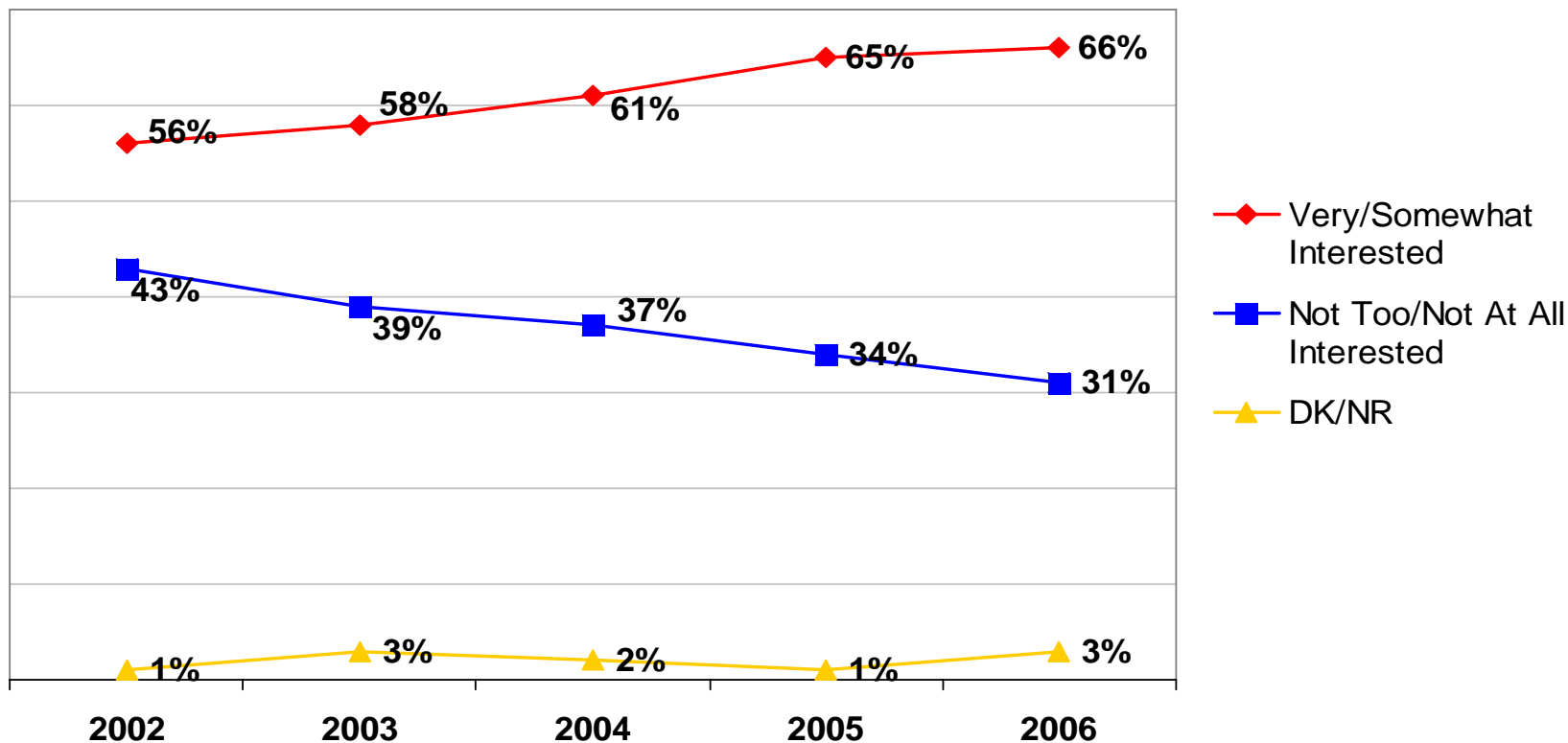
*"How would you describe your family's current economic situation?"*

# Economic Situation in 12 Months



*“And twelve months from now, do you expect that the economic situation in Azerbaijan will be better than it is now, will be worse than it is now, or will it be about the same as it is now?”*

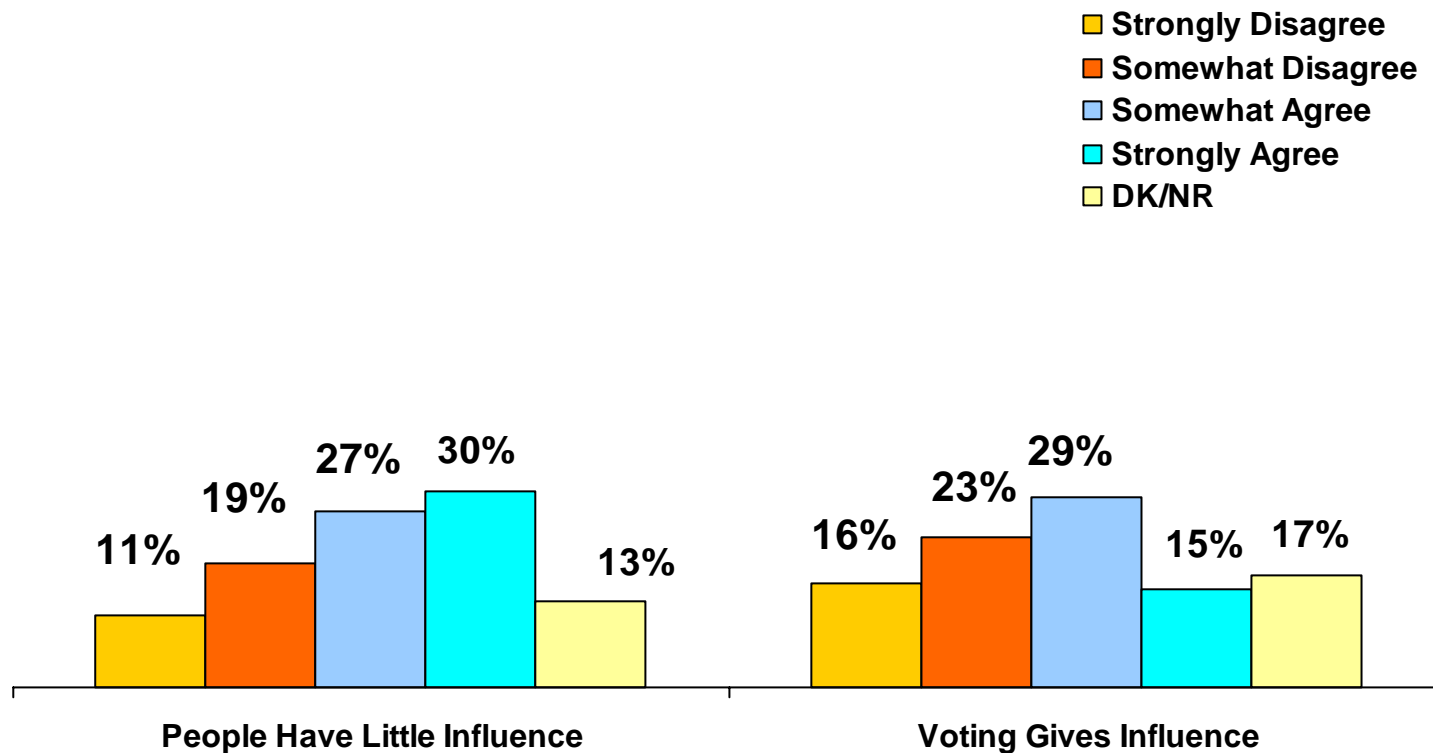
# Interest in Politics and Government



*“Please tell me how interested you are in affairs of politics and government?”*



# Most Azerbaijanis Exhibit Low Belief in Political and Voter Efficacy



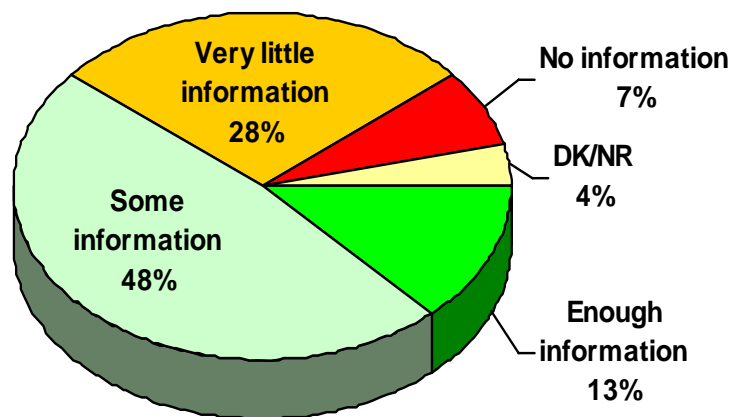
Agree or Disagree:

*“People like me have little or no influence on the way things are run in Azerbaijan.”*

*“Voting gives people like me a chance to influence decision-making in Azerbaijan.”*

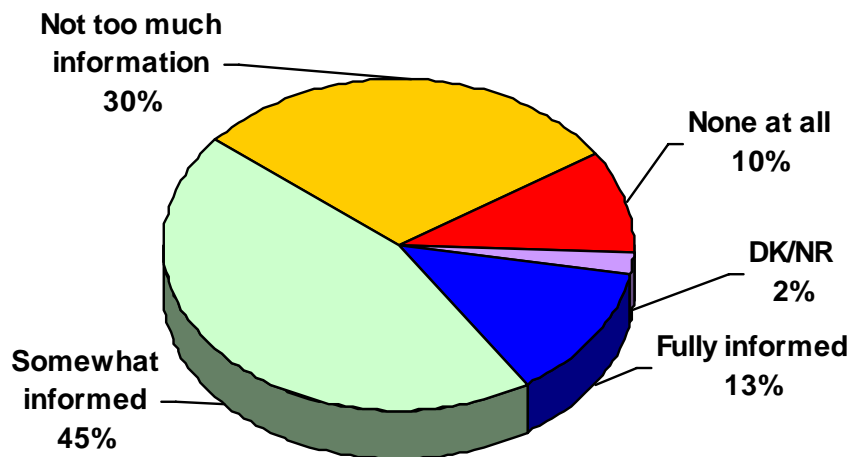
# Information about Elections

## Enough Information to Make Wise Choice When Voting?



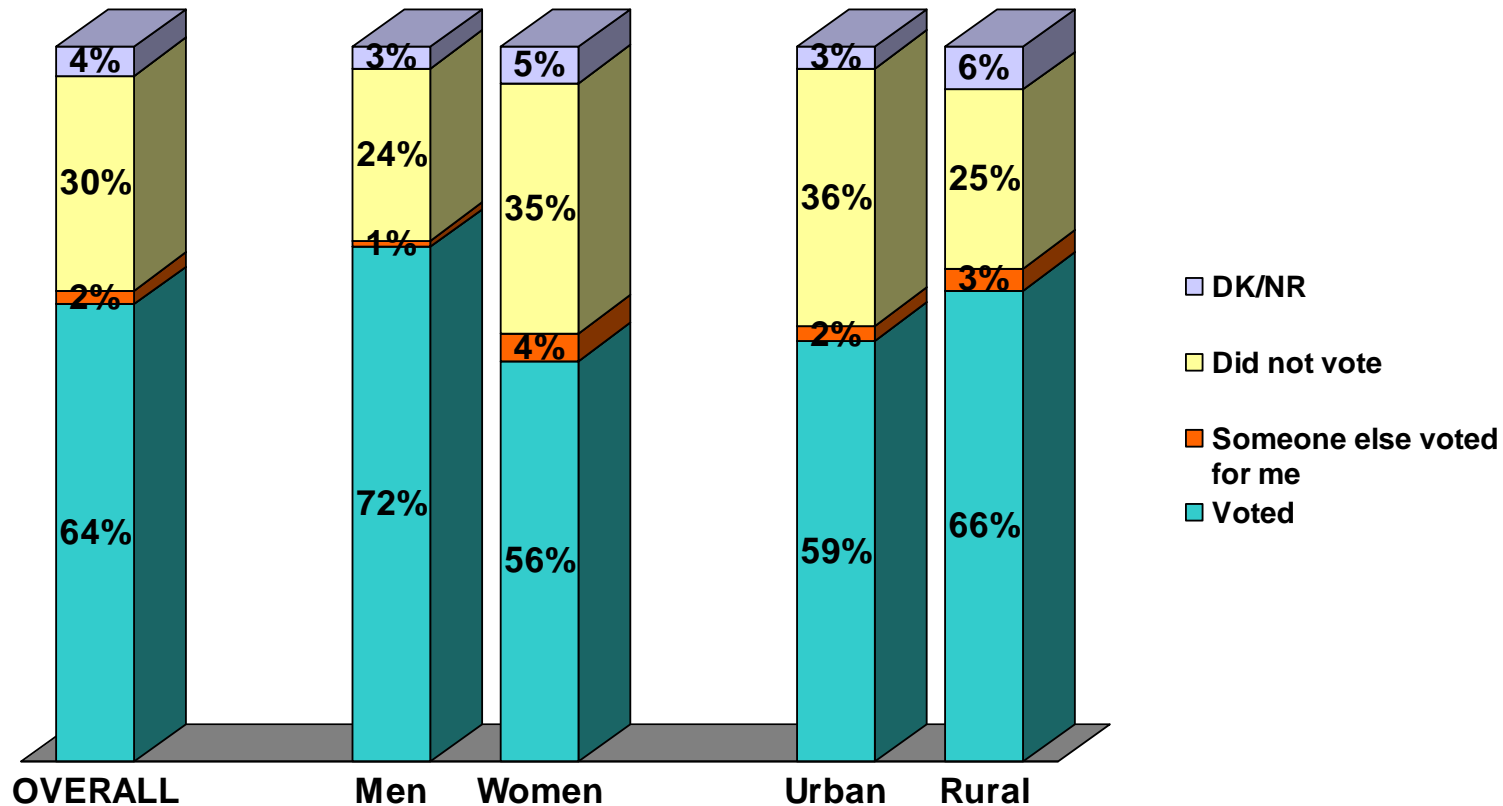
*"In your opinion, do you receive enough information about political developments in our country to make wise choices when it is time to vote in the elections?"*  
(n=1400)

## Information about Election Process



*"Are you fully informed about the election process in Azerbaijan, somewhat informed about the election process, not too informed, or not at all informed about the election process in Azerbaijan?"* (n=1400)

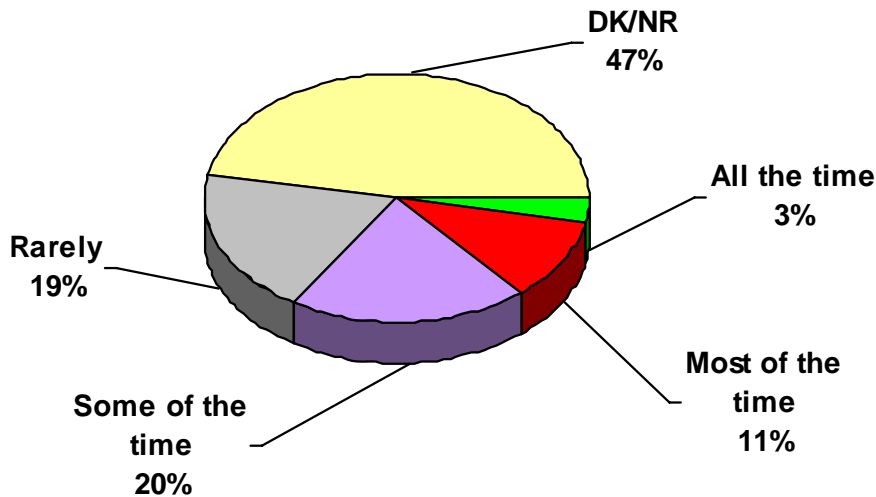
# Voting in 2005 Parliamentary Election



*“As you may know, sometimes people cast votes on behalf of other voters in elections. Did someone cast your vote for you in the November 2005 parliamentary elections? [If No] Did you vote in the 6 November, 2005 elections for parliament?” (n=1400)*

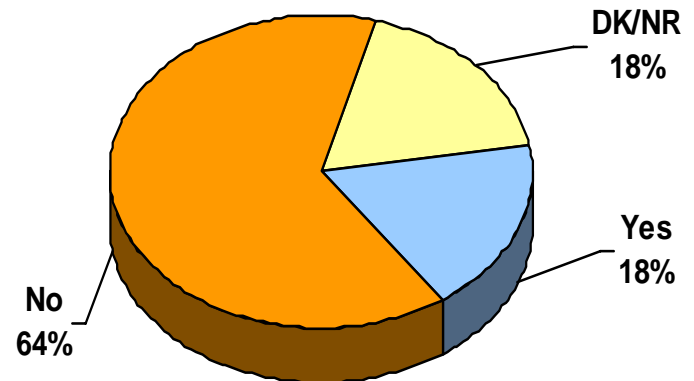
# Offers of Money or Goods for Vote (N)

**How often does it happen in Azerbaijan?**



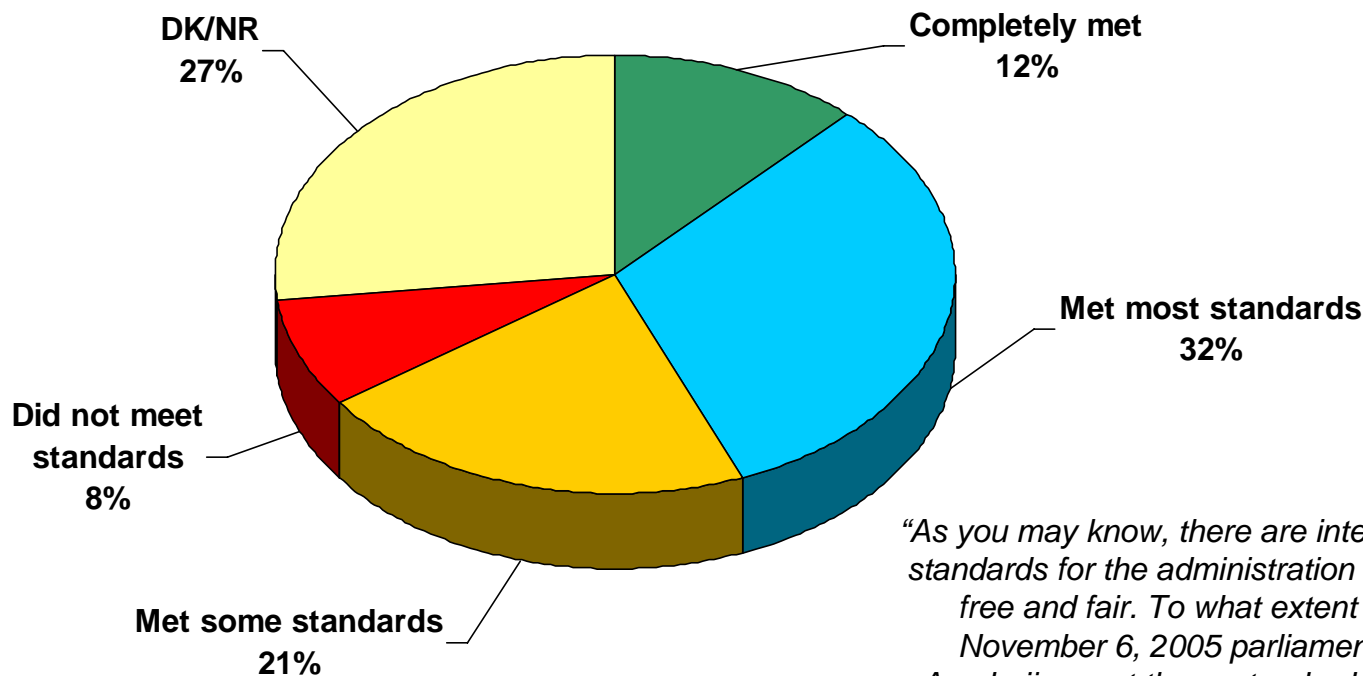
*“As you may know, there are reports around election time that ordinary Azerbaijanis are offered money or goods to vote for a particular party or candidate in the election. Do you think that this type of behavior happens all the time in elections in Azerbaijan, most of the time, some of the time, or that it happens rarely?” (n=1400)*

**Acquaintances Offered Money/Goods for Vote in Parliamentary Election?**



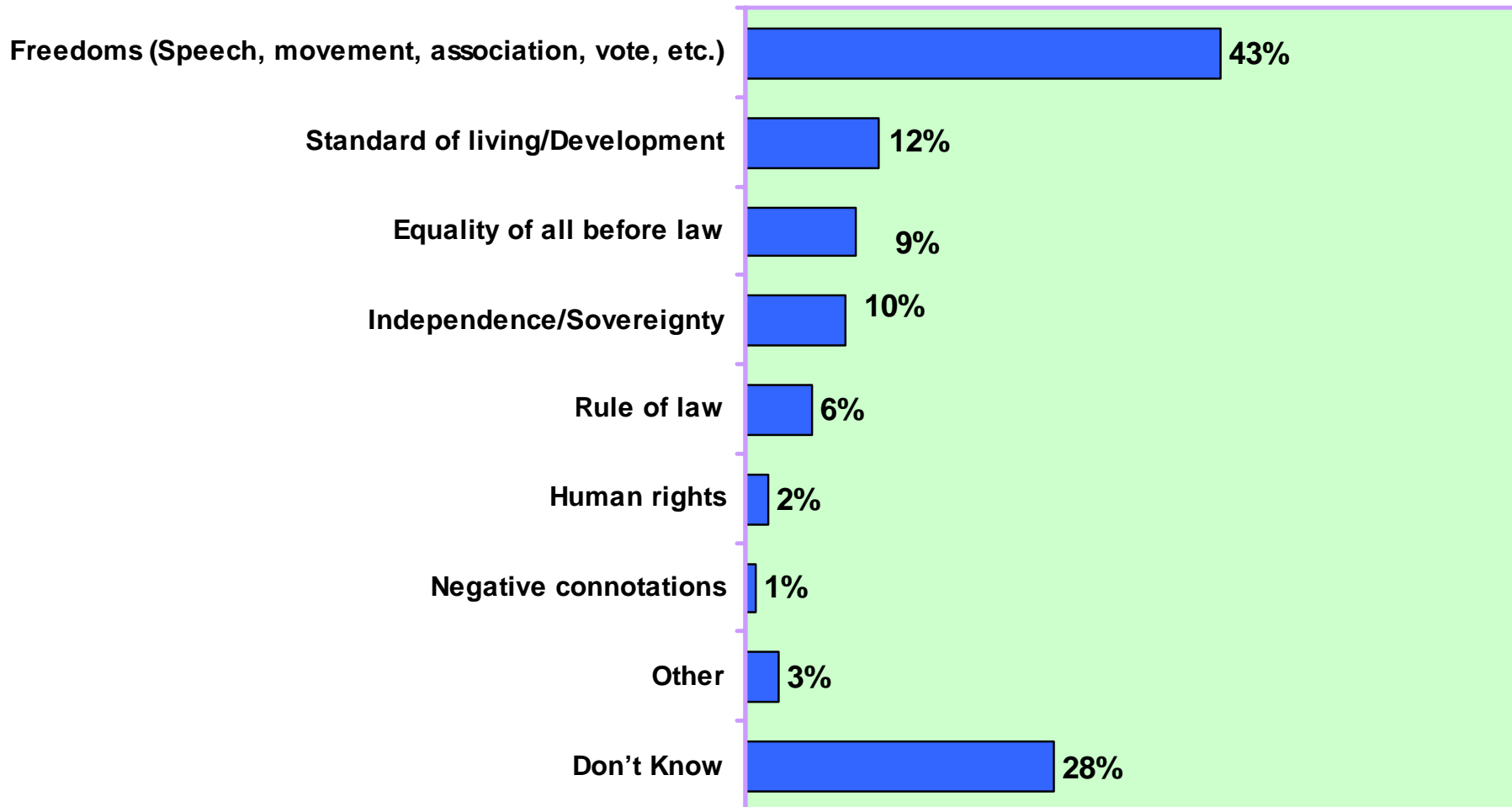
*“Do you know any close friends or relatives who were offered money, goods, or other material things to vote for a particular party or candidate in the November 2005 parliamentary elections?” (n=1400)*

# Did 2005 Parliamentary Elections Meet International Standards? (N)



*“As you may know, there are internationally accepted standards for the administration of elections that are free and fair. To what extent do you think the November 6, 2005 parliamentary elections in Azerbaijan met these standards? Do you think the November 2005 elections completely met the international standards, met most of the standards, met only some of the standard, or did not meet the international standards at all?” (n=1400)*

# Meaning of Democracy

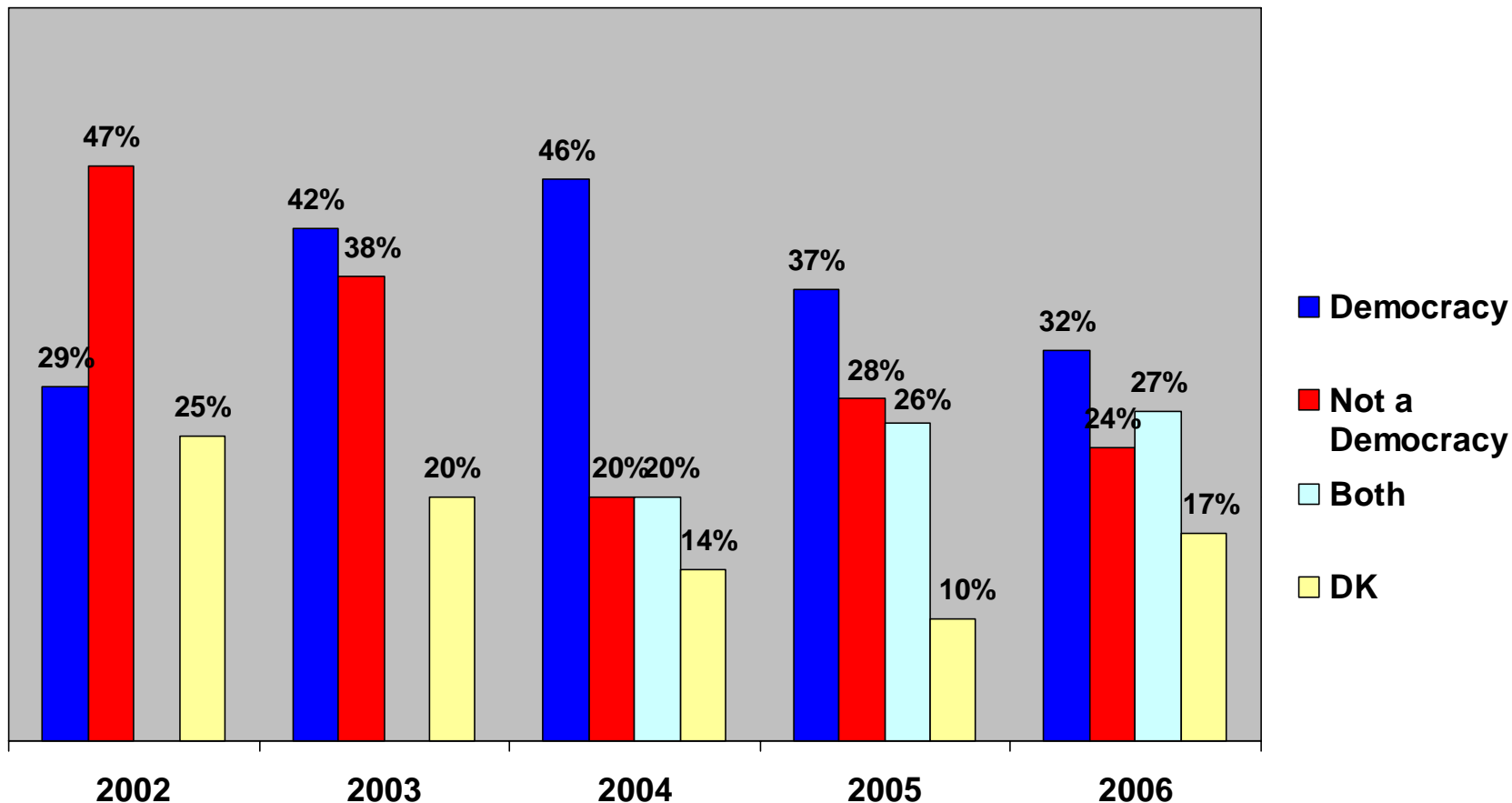


*“What does it mean to you to live in a democracy?”*



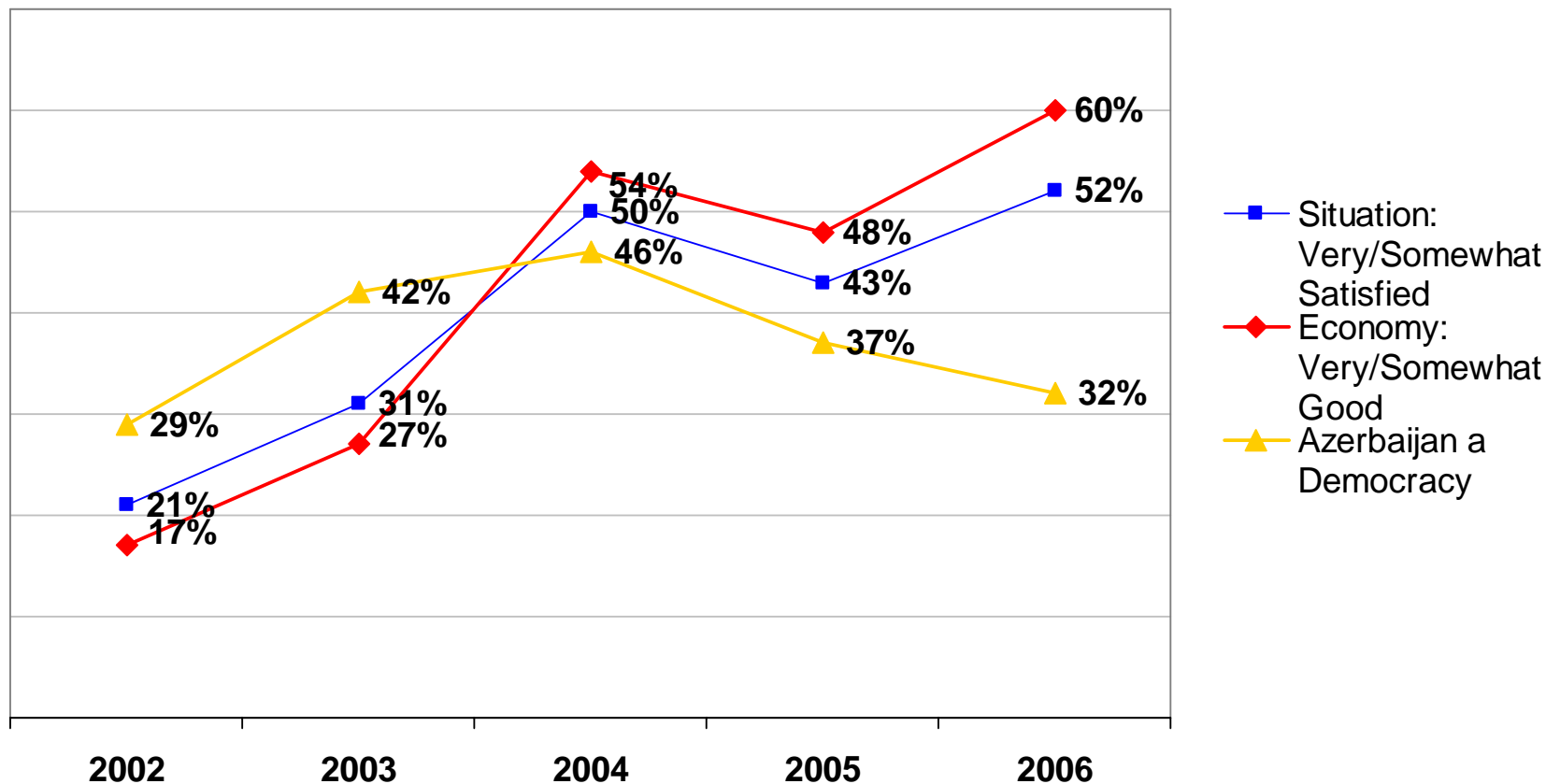
Dates of Fieldwork: November 17 - December 20, 2006; n=1400 for national sample;  
Margin of error: Plus/Minus 2.75%

# Democracy in Azerbaijan



*“Do you believe that Azerbaijan is primarily a democracy today or that it is not primarily a democracy?”*

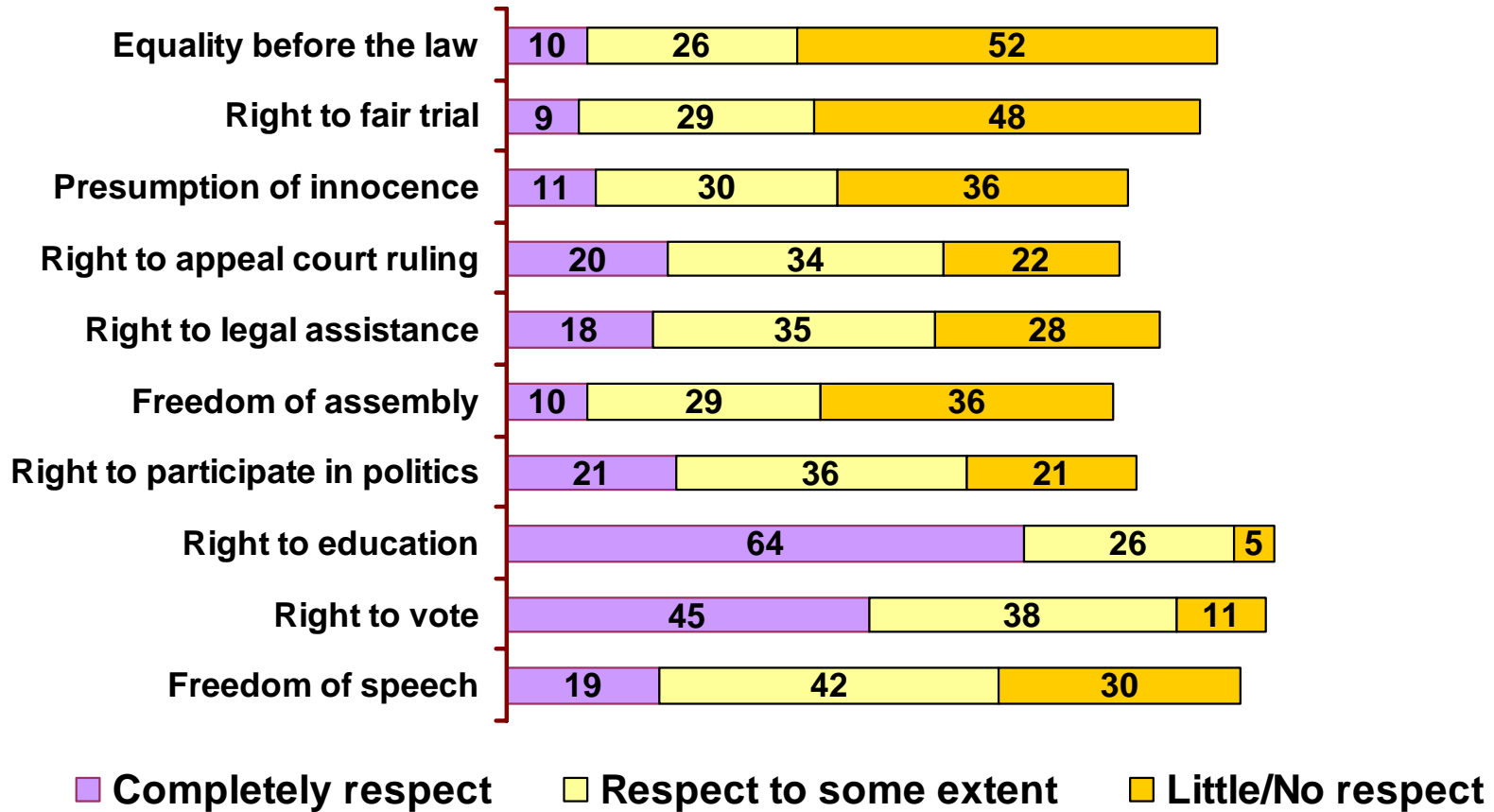
# Positive Assessments of Overall Situation, Current Economic Situation, and Democracy



Dates of Fieldwork: November 17 - December 20, 2006; n=1400 for national sample;  
Margin of error: Plus/Minus 2.75%

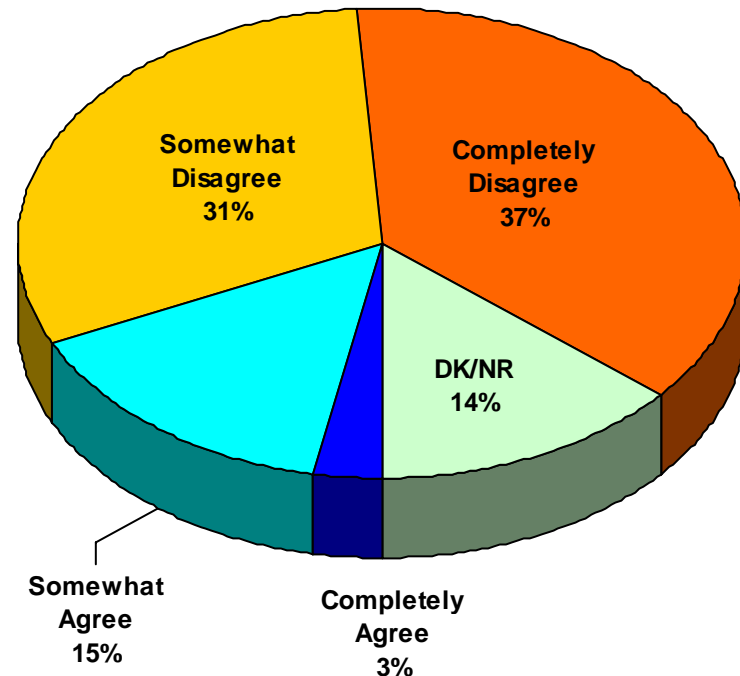
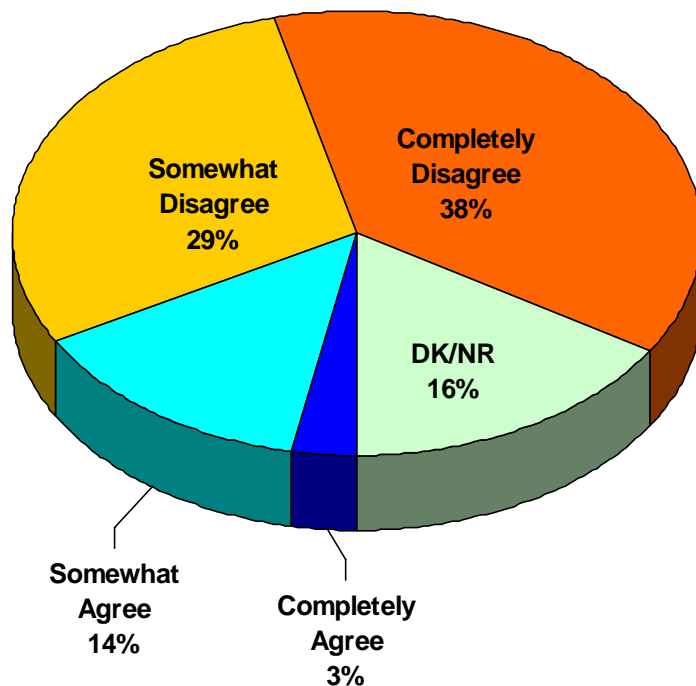


# Respect for Rights and Freedoms in Azerbaijan (N)



*“How much is [Right or Freedom] respected by the authorities in Azerbaijan: Completely respected, respected to some extent, given little respect, or given no respect at all?”*

# Attitudes toward Rights and Democracy



Agree or Disagree:

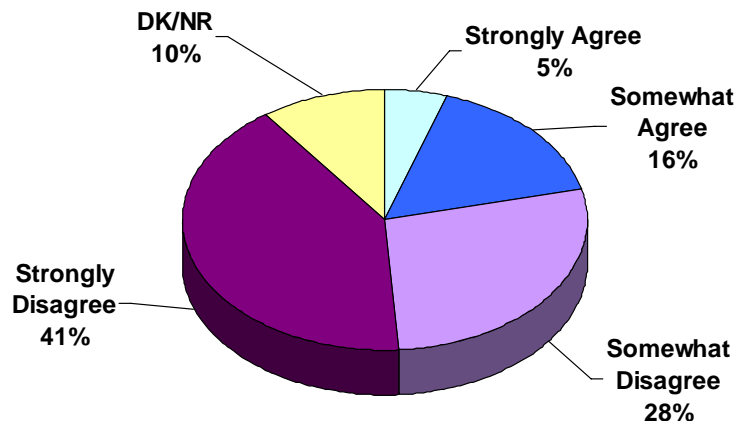
*"In order to establish order and discipline in society, it is necessary to limit the political and civic rights of the people."*

Agree or Disagree:

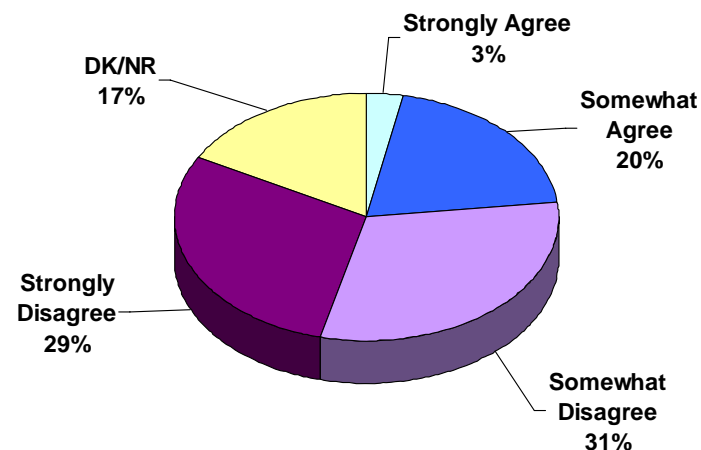
*"The basic tenets of Islam make it incompatible for an Islamic country to be a democracy ."*

# Attitudes toward Judicial Institutions

2005

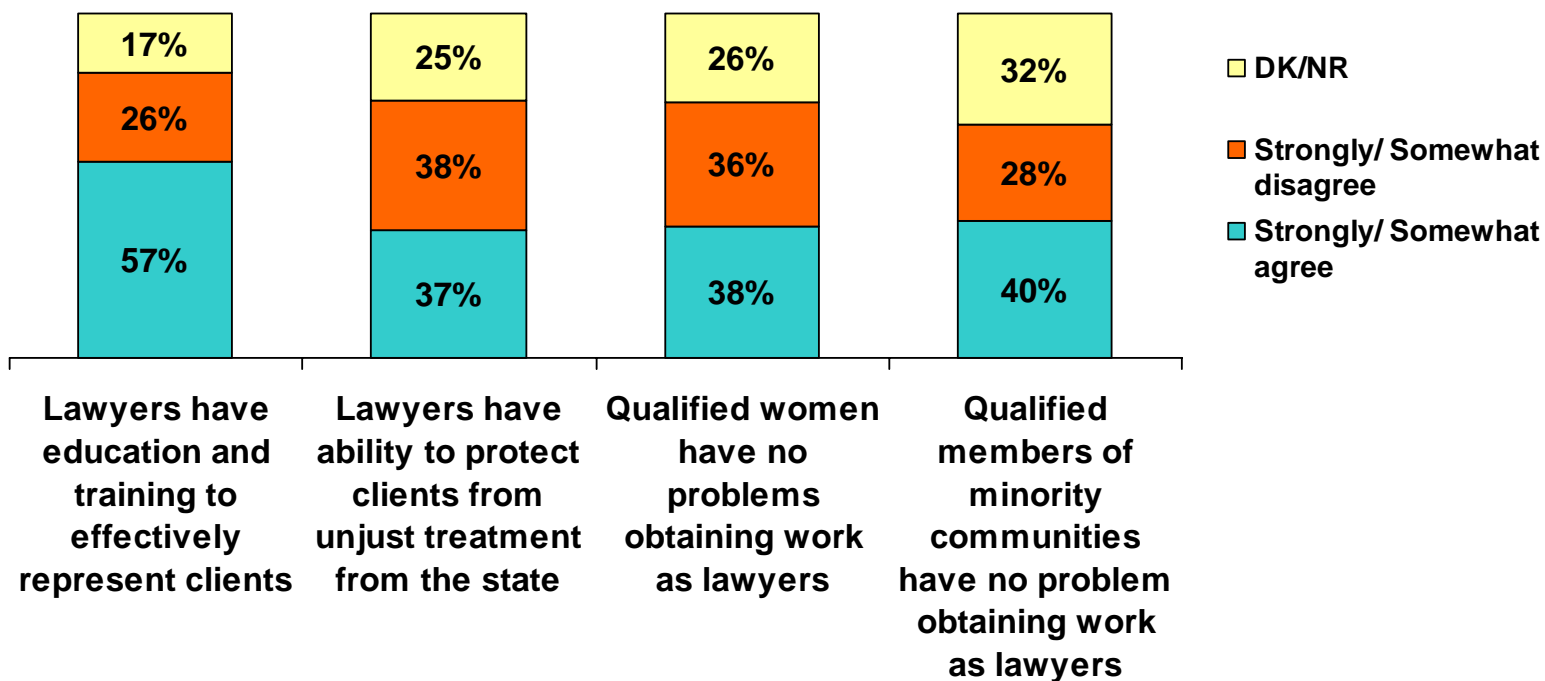


2006



*Please tell me if you agree or disagree with following statement about the justice system in Azerbaijan: "Our judicial system is unbiased and applies the law equally for all people."*

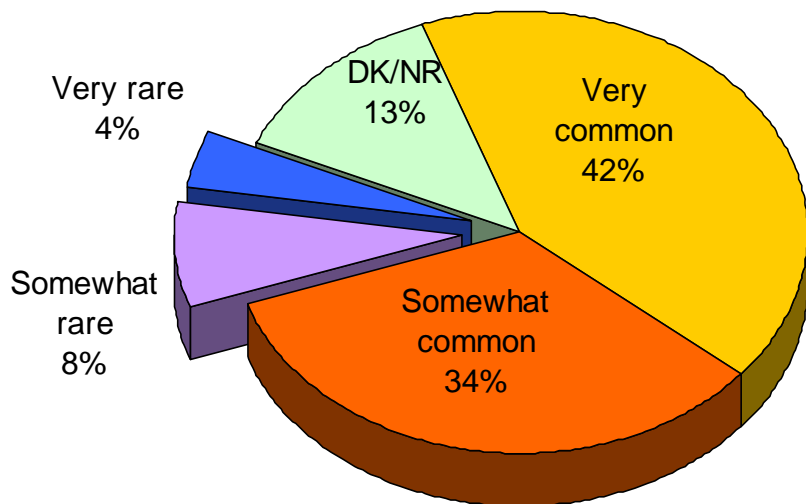
# Attitudes toward Lawyers in Azerbaijan (N)



*"I will now read you some statements about lawyers in Azerbaijan. Please tell me whether you strongly agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree, or strongly disagree with these statements." (n=1400)*

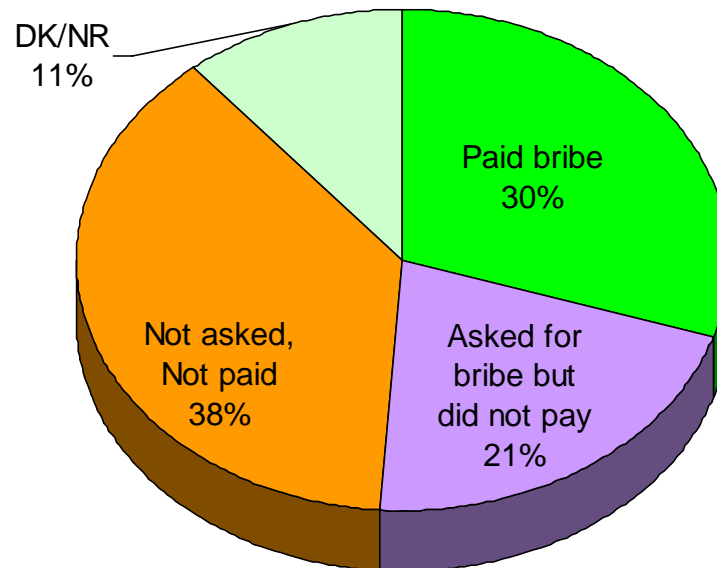
# Corruption in Azerbaijan

**Extent of Corruption**



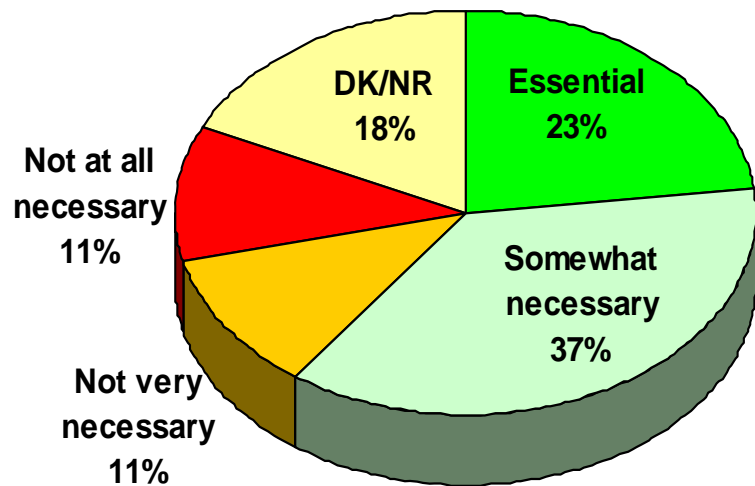
*“In your opinion, how common is corruption in Azerbaijan?”*

**Experience with Corruption**

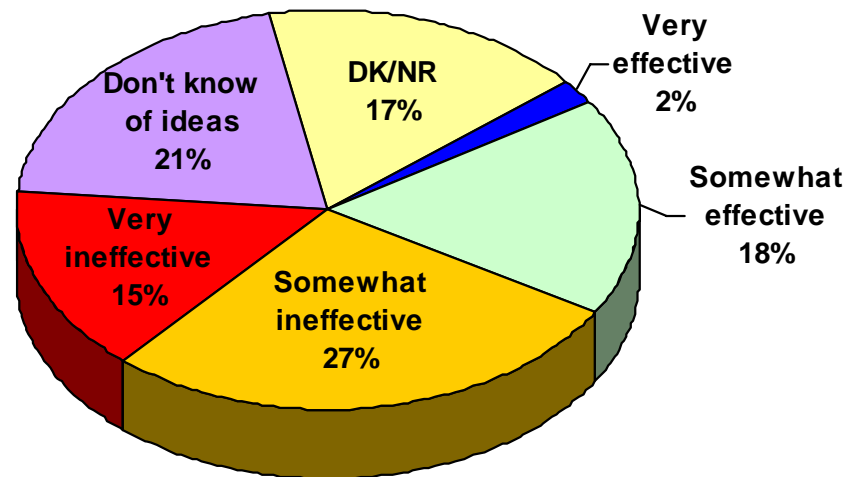


*“Remembering this is a confidential survey and your responses will never be revealed, can you tell me if you have ever paid a bribe to a public official to obtain a service or avoid a fine?”*  
*[If No] “Have you ever been asked for a bribe by a public official?”*

# Attitudes toward Political Parties

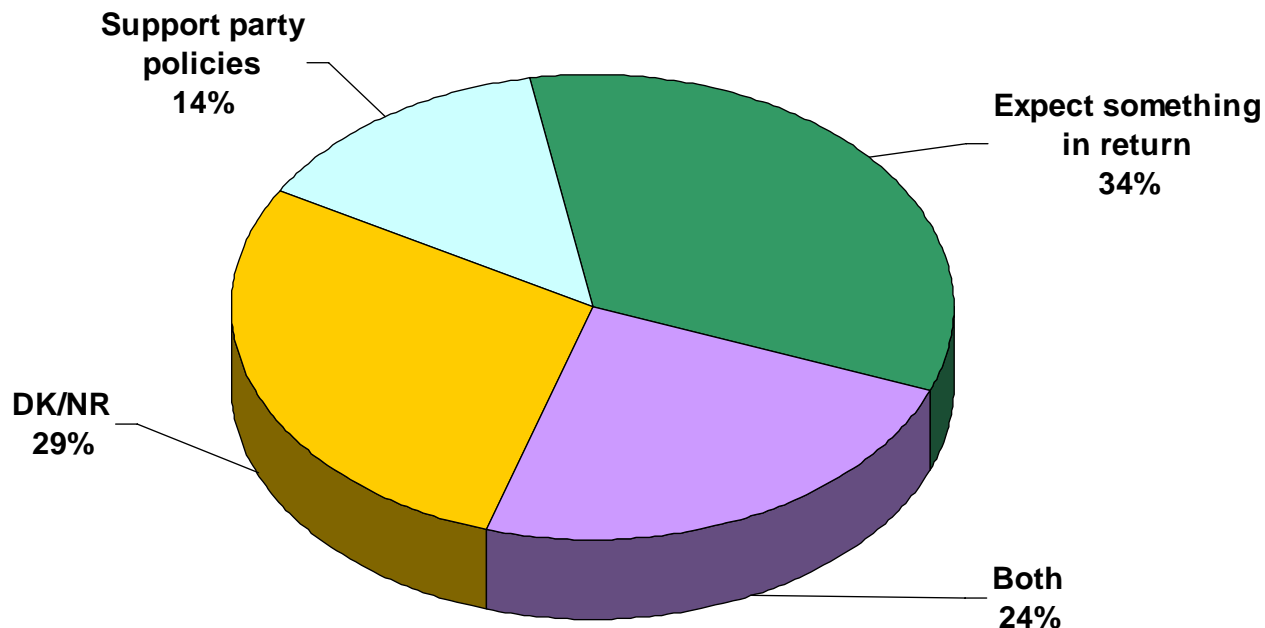


*"In your opinion, how necessary are political parties for democracy in Azerbaijan?"*



*"In general, how effective do you think political parties in Azerbaijan are in representing their ideas and principles to the Azerbaijani public?"*

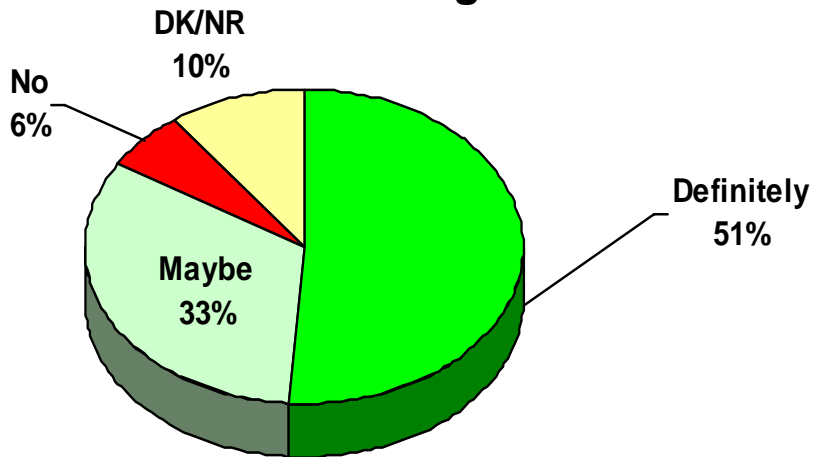
# Primary Motivation of Those who Contribute to Political Parties (N)



*“What do you think is the primary motivation of those who contribute financially to political party campaigns: because they support the policies being advocated by the party, or because the contributors expect something in return when the party gets into power?” (n=1400)*

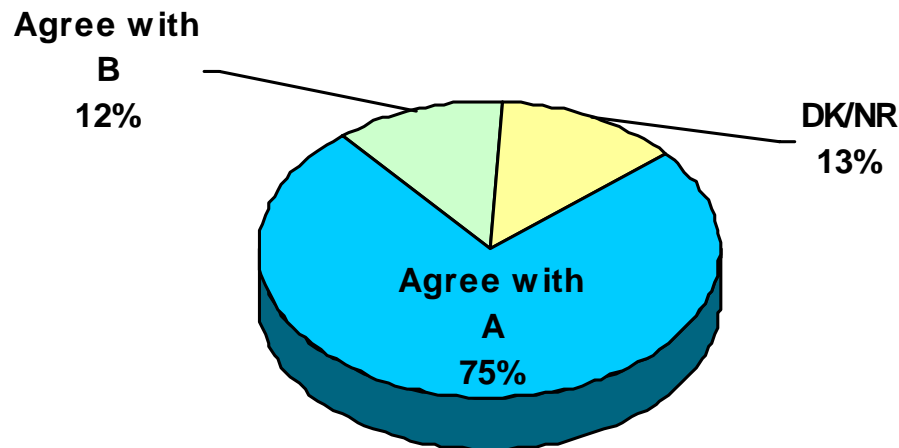
# Public Disclosure (N)

## Should Parties Disclose Sources of Funding?



*“Do you think that political parties in Azerbaijan should be required to publicly disclose the sources of funding they use to finance their operations and activities?”*  
(n=1400)

## Should Senior Government Officials Disclose Incomes and Assets?



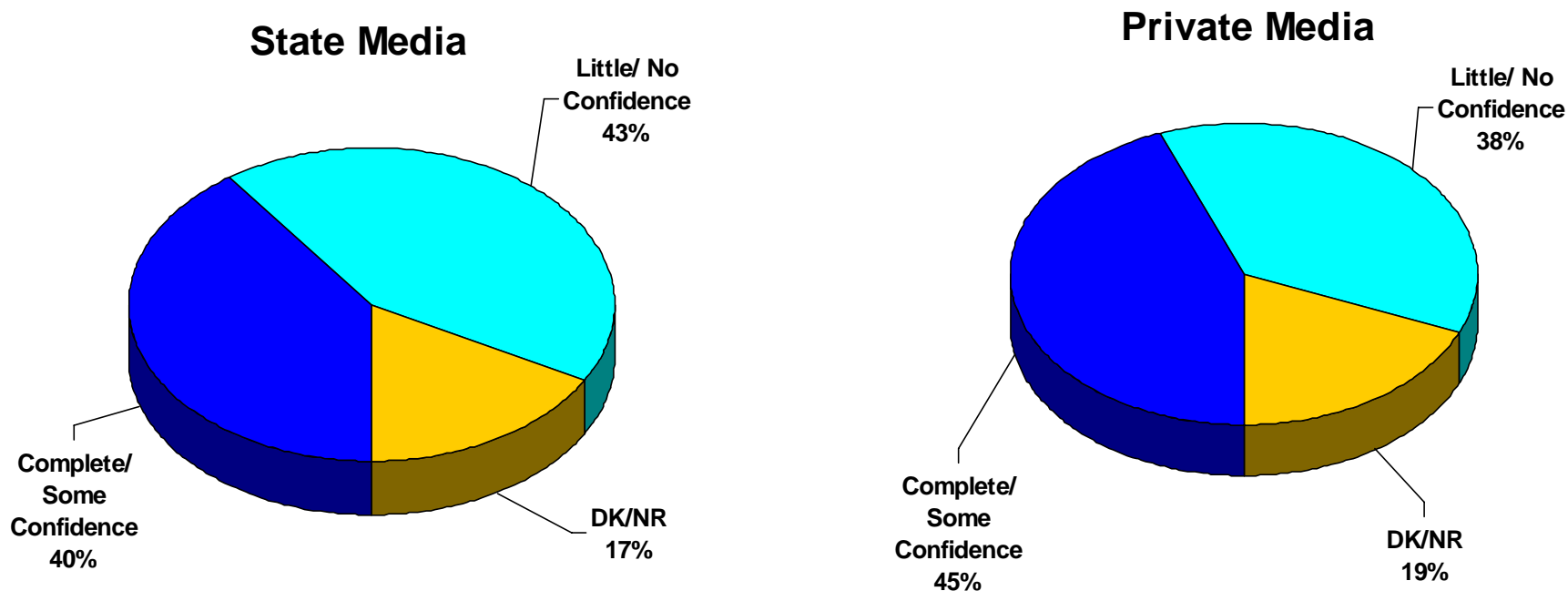
*I will now read to you two statements. Please tell me the statement with which you most agree.*

*A. “In order to increase openness in politics in Azerbaijan, senior government officials and elected leaders in Azerbaijan should be required to publicly disclose their incomes and assets on an annual basis.”*

*B. “Senior government officials and elected leaders have as much a right to privacy as any other Azerbaijani and should not be required to publicly disclose their incomes and assets.” (n=1400)*



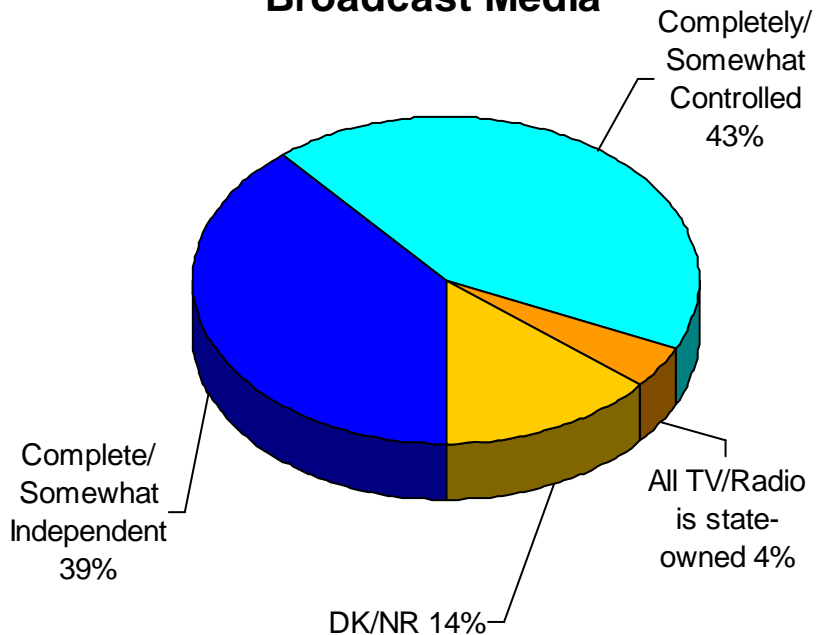
# Confidence in Media Coverage of Financial Aspects of Politics in Azerbaijan (N)



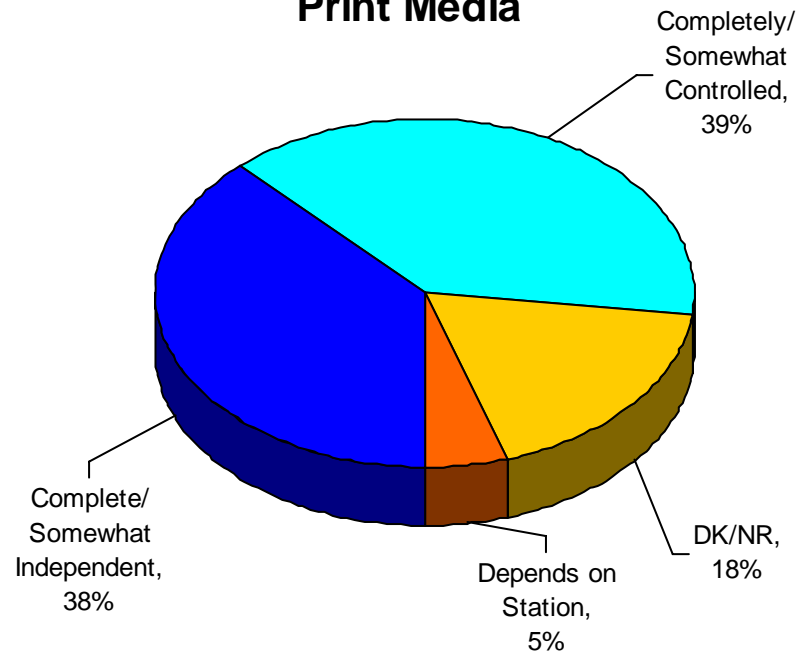
*“How much confidence do you have in the state (private) media in Azerbaijan to provide you objective information on the financial aspects of politics in Azerbaijan?” (n=1400)*

# Independence of Private Media (N)

**Broadcast Media**



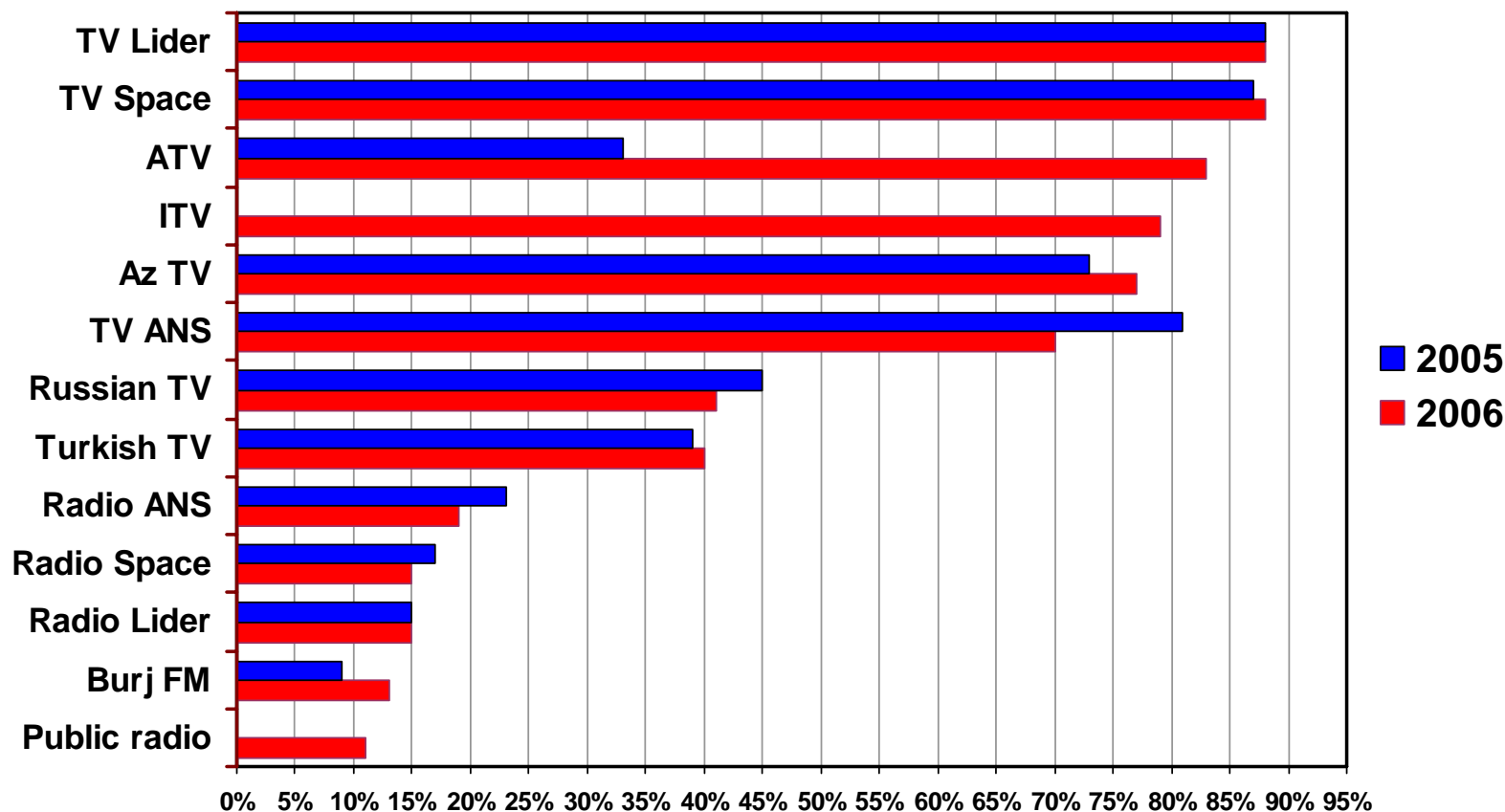
**Print Media**



*“Now, let’s talk about TV and radio stations in Azerbaijan not owned by the state. In your opinion, are these stations completely independent of control by the government, somewhat independent of the government, somewhat controlled by the government, or completely controlled by the government?”*

*“What about newspapers and magazines not owned by the state? Are these publication completely independent of control by the government, somewhat independent of the government, somewhat controlled by the government, or completely controlled by the government?” (n=1400)*

# Frequently Used Media Sources

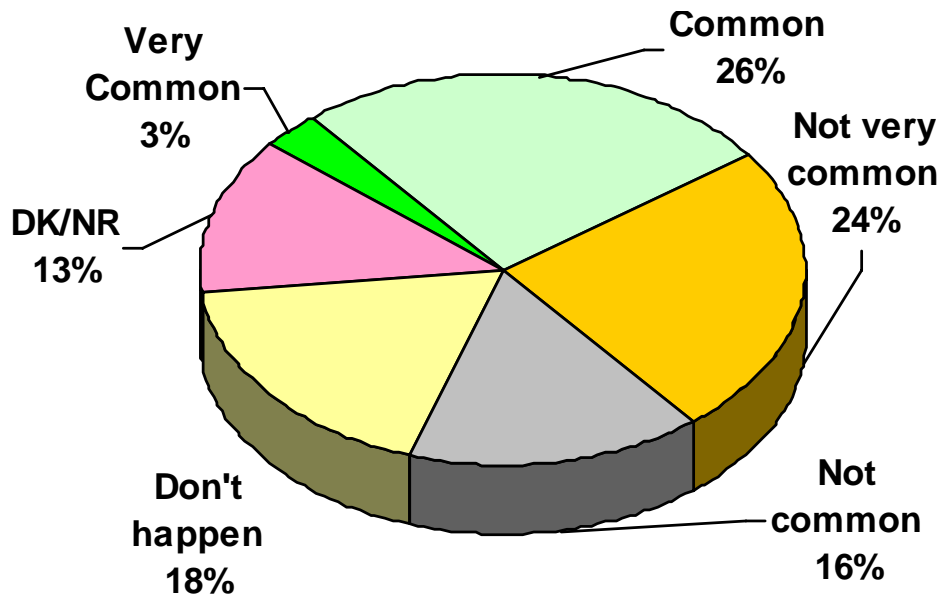


*“On this card are several sources of information you might use to get information about events here in Azerbaijan. Please tell me the sources of information you use to obtain information.”*

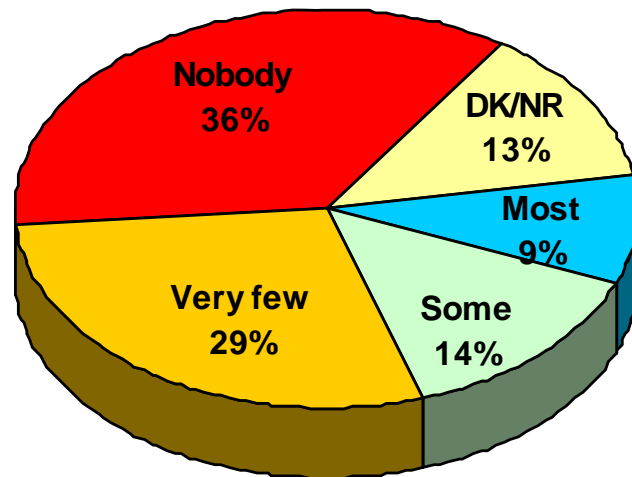


Dates of Fieldwork: November 17 - December 20, 2006; n=1400 for national sample;  
Margin of error: Plus/Minus 2.75%

# Awareness of Public Service Activities and NGOs

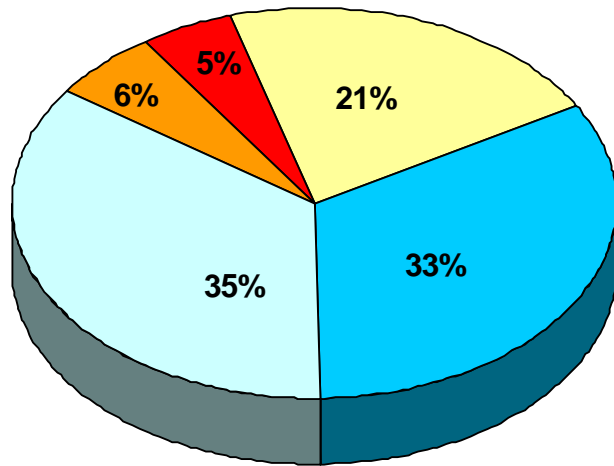


*“Now, let’s talk about charitable and other public service activities. These include activities such as help for the poor, help for refugees, help with medical or legal affairs, helping local communities build infrastructure, and providing information and materials for elections and democracy. To the best of your knowledge, are these types of activities very common in Azerbaijan, somewhat common, not very common, or do they not happen at all in Azerbaijan?” (n=1400)*



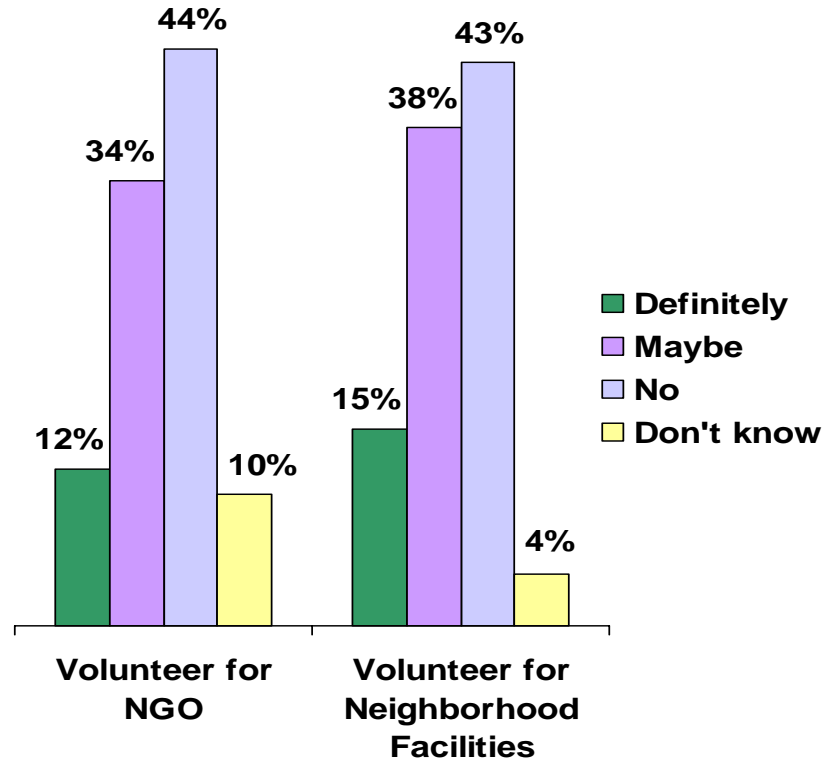
*“Let’s talk about the private organizations that provide these activities. These organizations are often call non-governmental organizations (NGOs). How many people in your community do you think are aware of these types of organizations?” (n=968)*

# Necessity of NGOs and Volunteer Activities



- Essential
- Necessary
- Not very necessary
- Not necessary at all

*"In your opinion, how necessary are non-governmental organizations in Azerbaijan?"*  
(n=968)

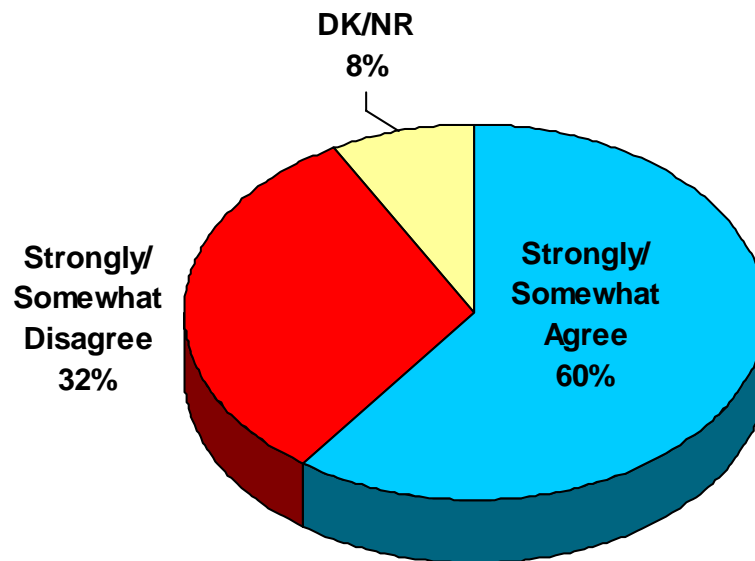
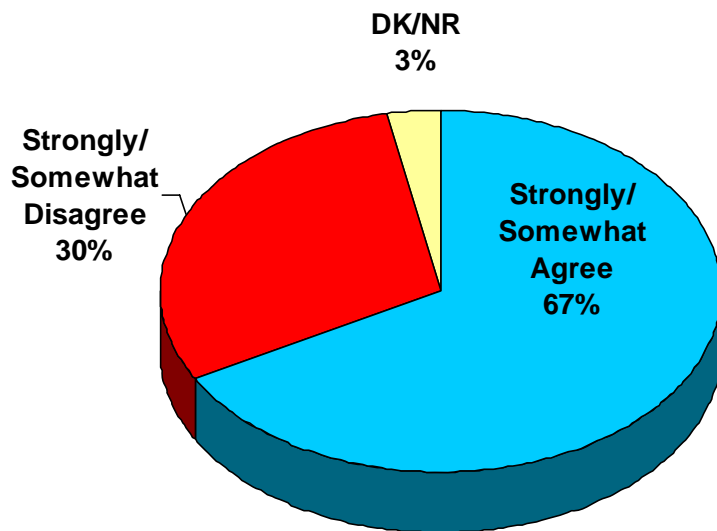


*"Would you be willing to volunteer some of your time for a (NGO, public institution in your neighborhood) without pay?"*

# Do Men and Women Enjoy the Same Basic Rights in Azerbaijan?

2005

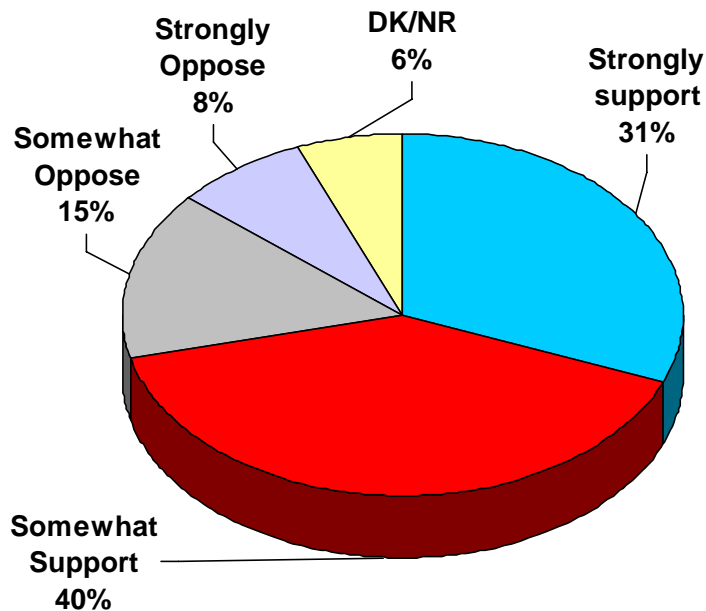
2006



*Agree or Disagree: "Do Men and Women have the same rights in Azerbaijan?"*

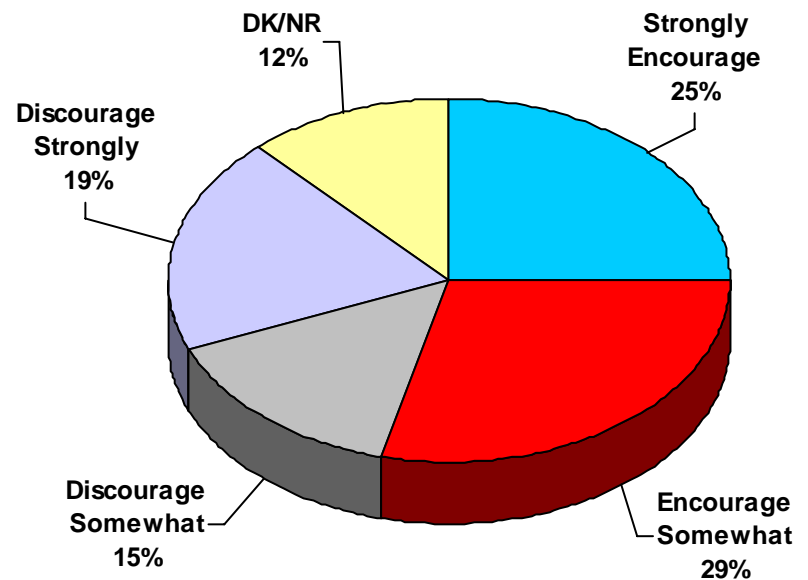
# Attitudes toward Women in Politics

**Support for Women becoming Political Candidates**



*Support/Oppose: "Do you support women becoming involved in politics as candidates for office? How strongly do you support such a role for women?"*

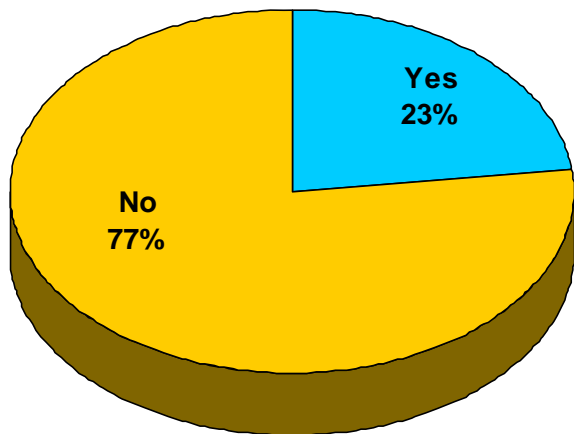
**Support for Daughter becoming Involved in Politics**



*Encourage/Discourage: "Please tell whether you would encourage your daughter (if you have one, or supposing you have one) to become involved in politics as a candidate?"*

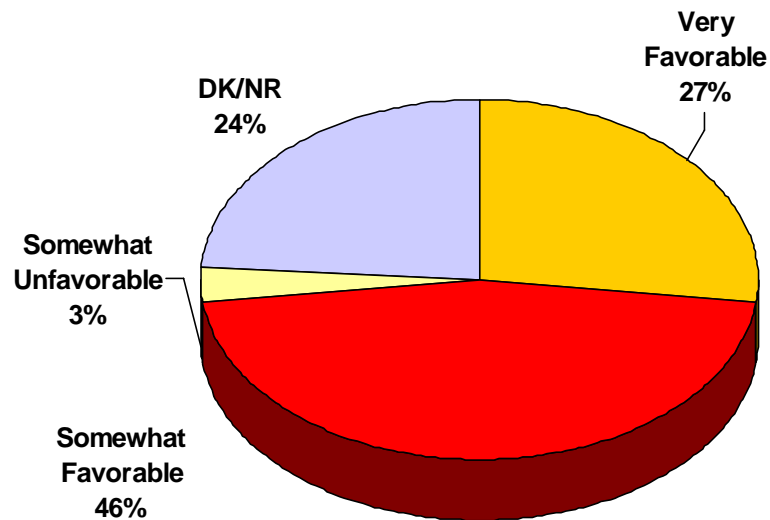
# Awareness of, and Opinions on, USAID (N)

## Ever Heard of USAID?



*"Have you heard of the organisation USAID?" (n=1400)*

## Impressions of USAID



*"In general, what is your overall impression of the work that USAID engages in in Azerbaijan?" (n=326)*